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**Conservation Districts
of Manitoba**

**Districts de conservation
du Manitoba**

**Annual Report
2008-2009**

**Rapport annuel
2008-2009**



MINISTER OF WATER STEWARDSHIP

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
R3C 0V8

His Honour The Honourable Philip S. Lee, C.M., O.M
Lieutenant – Governor of Manitoba
Room 235
Legislative Building
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8

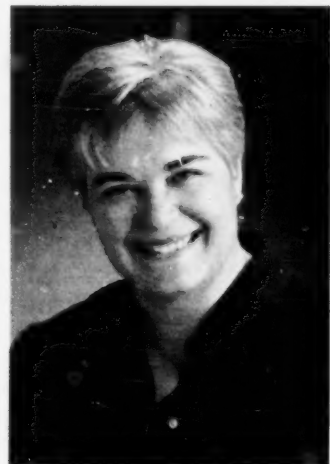
Your Honour:

I have the privilege of presenting, for the information of your Honour, the Annual Report of the Conservation Districts of Manitoba for the year ended March 31, 2009, along with the audited financial statements of the Districts for the same period.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Christine Melnick".

Christine Melnick





CONSERVATION DISTRICTS COMMISSION

Room 314, Legislative Building, 450 Broadway Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8

The Honourable Christine Melnick
Minister of Water Stewardship
Room 314, Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0V8

Dear Madam:

I submit for your approval the 2008-2009 Annual Report of the Conservation Districts for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2009.

The Conservation Districts Program continues to serve Manitobans by providing government with innovative planning, programming and sound financial management.

With a continued focus on local watershed health in Manitoba, this document effectively outlines the programs which have been developed by the Province's Conservation Districts in support of protecting, preserving, and promoting the prudent use of our environmental and economic resources.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Norquay
Deputy Minister
Chair, Conservation Districts Commission



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Conservation Districts Program

Watershed Planning & Programs

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Chairperson
Deputy Minister
Water Stewardship

Linda McFadyen
Deputy Minister
Intergovernmental Affairs and Trade

Barry Todd
Deputy Minister
Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives

Andrew Horosko
Deputy Minister
Infrastructure and Transportation

Don Cook
Deputy Minister
Conservation

Arlene Wilgosh
Deputy Minister
Health

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Association of Manitoba Municipalities

Ron Kostyshyn
Manitoba Conservation Districts Association

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David Jones	Dauphin
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Erin Shay	Winnipeg
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Conservation Districts Program

Foreword

The Conservation Districts Program operates under the authority of *The Conservation Districts Act*. The objectives of the *Conservation Districts Act* are to provide for the conservation, control and prudent use of resources through the establishment of Conservation Districts and to protect the correlative rights of owners.

The *Conservation District Act* provides for the creation of Conservation Districts and requires the establishment of a Commission to oversee the activities of the Conservation Districts' Boards. The Commission, in turn, reports to the Minister of Water Stewardship. The *Conservation Districts Act* also requires each conservation district to prepare an Annual Report, which includes: an update on progress made towards developing and implementing their watershed management plans; general remarks with respect to activities related to the establishment of new Districts or expansion of existing Districts; summary of land and water management programming activities; and the Auditor's Report for each District. The Watershed Planning and Programs section of Manitoba Water Stewardship acts as the Secretariat to the Conservation Districts Commission and is responsible for the administration of the program.

Manitoba Water Stewardship and member municipal authorities provide annual funding to assist conservation districts. In addition, the conservation districts procure additional cost-share funding from local landowners, Ducks Unlimited Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, and many other government and non-government agencies. Other Provincial departments such as Conservation, Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives and Infrastructure and Transportation also provide grants for specific projects.

Each conservation district is required to prepare a watershed management plan. Throughout the planning process, each District establishes a long-term vision, mandate, goals, objectives, and a 5-year program and operating budget.

Programme des districts de conservation

Avant-propos

Le Programme des districts de conservation est régi par la *Loi sur les districts de conservation*. Cette loi a pour objet de prévoir la conservation, le contrôle et l'emploi judicieux des ressources par l'établissement de districts de conservation, ainsi que de protéger les droits des propriétaires en ces matières.

La *Loi* prévoit la création de districts de conservation et exige la mise sur pied d'une Commission chargée de superviser les activités des conseils des districts de conservation. Cette Commission doit de son côté rendre compte au ministre de la Gestion des ressources hydriques. La *Loi* exige aussi que chaque district de conservation prépare un rapport annuel qui comprend : un compte rendu des progrès accomplis quant à l'élaboration et à la mise en œuvre des plans de gestion des bassins hydrographiques; des remarques générales sur les activités liées à la création de nouveaux districts ou à l'agrandissement de districts existants; un résumé des activités de gestion des terres et de l'eau; et un rapport préparé par un vérificateur. La Section de la planification de la gestion des bassins hydrographiques et des programmes du ministère de la Gestion des ressources hydriques agit à titre de secrétariat de la Commission des districts de conservation et est responsable de l'administration du programme.

Le ministère de la Gestion des ressources hydriques et les administrations municipales membres fournissent un financement annuel aux districts de conservation afin de les aider. De plus, les districts obtiennent un financement additionnel à coûts partagés des propriétaires fonciers de leur région, de Canards Illimités Canada, d'Agriculture et Agroalimentaire Canada, ainsi que d'autres organismes d'État et organismes non gouvernementaux. D'autres ministères provinciaux, comme le ministère de la Conservation, le ministère de l'Agriculture, de l'Alimentation et des Initiatives rurales ainsi que le ministère de l'Infrastructure et des Transports peuvent aussi accorder des subventions pour des projets particuliers.

Chaque district de conservation est tenu de préparer un plan de gestion de bassin hydrographique. Cela lui permet d'établir une vision à long terme, de se fixer un mandat et des objectifs, et d'élaborer un programme et un budget de fonctionnement sur cinq ans.

Program Growth

- The Assiniboine Hills Conservation District completed formation as a result of a merger between Tiger Hills and Mid Assiniboine River Conservation Districts. The new district also expanded to include the rural municipalities of Whitewater, Riverside, Oakland, the Village of Wawanesa and the Town of Souris.
- The West Interlake Watershed Conservation District formed. The district includes the rural municipalities of Armstrong, Coldwell, Eriksdale, Siglunes, St. Laurent and Woodlands.
- The Seine-Rat River Conservation District expanded to involve the rural municipality of Montcalm and has worked on a proposal to include the Town of Niverville and the rural municipality of Franklin.
- The East Interlake Conservation District expanded to include the rural municipalities of Woodlands, West St. Paul and the City of Selkirk.
- The Upper Assiniboine River Conservation District has worked on a proposal to include the Town of Virden.

Expansion du programme

- La création du district de conservation Assiniboine Hills est terminée. Ce nouveau district résulte de l'amalgame des districts de Tiger Hills et de la partie médiane de la rivière Assiniboine. Il s'est également élargi pour inclure les municipalités rurales de Whitewater, de Riverside et d'Oakland, le village de Wawanesa et la ville de Souris.
- Le district de conservation de l'ouest du bassin de drainage d'Entre-les-Lacs a été créé. Ce district comprend les municipalités rurales d'Armstrong, de Coldwell, d'Eriksdale, de Siglunes, de Saint-Laurent et de Woodlands.
- Le district de conservation des rivières Seine et aux Rats s'est élargi afin d'inclure la municipalité rurale de Montcalm et a travaillé sur une proposition visant à inclure la ville de Niverville et la municipalité rurale de Franklin.
- Le district de conservation de l'est de la région d'Entre-les-Lacs s'est agrandi pour inclure les municipalités rurales de Woodlands et de West St. Paul et la ville de Selkirk.
- Le district de conservation de la partie supérieure de la rivière Assiniboine a travaillé sur une proposition visant à inclure la ville de Virden.

Program Activities

In 2008-2009, the Conservation Districts Program expended over 8 million dollars towards land and water stewardship programming. The following is a summary of activities for the fiscal year 2008-2009:

Program Component	Projects	2008-09	Units
Watershed Planning	Watershed management plans	13	In progress
	Habitat Assessments	2	projects
Public Education & Extension	Education programs - local schools	148	schools
	Informational video	1	projects
	Tours / Demo days / Extension	108	projects
	Recreation sites / tourism	18	projects
	Eco Camp	4	projects
Fisheries & Wildlife	Wildlife habitat enhancement	54	projects
	Fisheries enhancement	15	projects
	Conservation Agreements	1	projects
Soil Management	Enviro Farm Planning referrals	39	referrals
	Forage seeded	5,893	ha
	Forage / soil testing	207	projects
	GIS services / mapping	474	projects
	Gully erosion repairs	19	projects
	Manure management	7	projects
	Pasture management systems	45	projects
	Pasture pipelines	30	km
	Planned grazing	9	projects
	Rotational winter feeding	36	projects
	Salinity seed	113	projects
	Shelterbelts	72	km
	Swath grazing	5	projects
	Trees planted	52,221	trees
	Winter cereals	112	ha
	Woodlot management	2	projects
	Buffer-strips	2	km
	Custom seeding	3	km
Water Management	Water pump rental	61	projects
	Water retention	29	projects
	Water quality tests - wells / surface	2,210	samples
	Watering systems - off-site	82	projects
	Wells sealed	339	wells
	Wells - maintenance & brochures	1,065	wells
	Benthic Monitoring	9	samples
	Streambank stabilization	26	projects
	Erosion control	37	projects
	Equipment rental	435	ha
	Ring dykes	1	projects
	Riparian exclusion fencing	42	km
	BMP Research	1	projects
	Livestock crossings / stream access	19	projects
Infrastructure Management	Crossings repaired or replaced	87	crossings
	Drainage licenses	155	reviews
	Drain construction / reconstruction	31	km
	Drains maintained	1,428	km
	Beaver Dams Removal	67	dams
	Sub-division applications	54	reviews

Activités du programme

En 2008-2009, le Programme des districts de conservation a dépensé plus de 8 millions de dollars pour des programmes de gestion des eaux et d'aménagement des terres. Voici un résumé des activités au cours de l'exercice 2008-2009 :

Volet du programme	Projets	2008-2009	Unités
Planification dans les bassins versants	Plans de gestion des bassins hydrographiques	13	en cours
	Évaluation des habitats	2	projets
Éducation du public et diffusion	Programmes éducatifs pour les écoles de la région	148	écoles
	Vidéo d'information	1	projets
	Visites guidées, présentations et activités de diffusion	108	projets
	Sites de loisirs et tourisme	18	projets
	Camp écolo	4	projets
Pêche et faune	Mise en valeur des habitats fauniques	54	projets
	Mise en valeur de la pêche	15	projets
	Accords de conservation	1	projets
Gestion des sols	Renvois au programme de planification agricole environnementale	39	renvois
	Plantation de fourrages	5 893	ha
	Analyses de fourrages et de sols	207	projets
	Service d'information géographique et cartographie	474	projets
	Restauration des ravines	19	projets
	Gestion du fumier	7	projets
	Systèmes de gestion des pâturages	45	projets
	Canalisations d'eau dans les pâturages	30	km
	Planification des pacages	9	projets
	Alimentation des animaux en rotation pendant l'hiver	36	projets
	Graines tolérant la salinité	113	projets
	Brise-vent	72	km
	Pâturage sur andains	5	projets
	Plantation d'arbres	52 221	arbres
	Céréales d'hiver	112	ha
	Gestion des terrains boisés	2	projets
	Bandes tampons	2	km
	Semis à forfait	3	km
Gestion de l'eau	Location de pompes à eau	61	projets
	Rétention des eaux	29	projets
	Tests de qualité de l'eau dans des puits et en surface	2 210	échantillons
	Systèmes d'arrosage extérieurs	82	projets
	Fermeture des puits	339	puits
	Puits - entretien et brochures	1 065	puits
	Surveillance des milieux benthiques	9	échantillons
	Stabilisation des rives	26	projets
	Lutte contre l'érosion	37	projets
	Location d'équipement	435	ha
	Digues circulaires	1	projets
	Clôture d'exclusion le long des rives	42	km
	Recherches dans le domaine des pratiques de gestion bénéfique	1	projets
Gestion de l'infrastructure	Accès aux cours d'eau et voies de passage pour le bétail	49	projets
	Réparation et remplacement des traverses	87	traverses
	Permis de drainage	155	évaluations
	Construction et reconstruction des canaux de drainage	31	km
	Entretien des canaux de drainage	1 428	km
	Suppression de barrages de castors	67	barrages
	Demandes en vue d'effectuer des subdivisions	54	évaluations

Conservation District Grants

Subventions aux districts de conservation

Up to 75 per cent of the costs of Conservation District programs are funded by provincial grants. The grants are provided for watershed planning and implementation initiatives that support public policy objectives relating to the stewardship of Manitoba's natural resources. Program areas include but are not limited to wetland protection and reclamation, water quality improvement, water storage and retention, wildlife and fisheries habitat protection and rehabilitation, water and water control infrastructure management, soil conservation, public education and extension, and a variety of other resource management initiatives. The funding is also used to assist with the operational and administrative expenses of each conservation district.

Les subventions provinciales couvrent jusqu'à 75 % du coût des programmes des districts de conservation. Ces subventions sont destinées aux initiatives de création de bassins hydrographiques et de planification dans ces bassins qui appuient les objectifs des politiques publiques en matière de gestion des ressources naturelles du Manitoba. Le programme comprend divers volets, notamment la protection et la remise en état des milieux humides, l'amélioration de la qualité de l'eau, le stockage et la rétention d'eau, la protection et la restauration des habitats fauniques et aquatiques, la gestion de l'eau et de l'infrastructure de régulation des eaux, la conservation des sols, l'éducation du public et la diffusion et diverses autres activités de gestion de ressources. Les fonds sont aussi utilisés pour aider à couvrir les dépenses d'exploitation et d'administration de chacun des districts de conservation.

CONSERVATION DISTRICT GRANTS 2008-2009

SUBVENTIONS AUX DISTRICTS DE CONSERVATION EN 2008-2009

DISTRICTS / DISTRICTS	PROVINCIAL GRANTS	SUBVENTIONS PROVINCIALES
Alonsa	\$ 260,000	260 000 \$
Assiniboine Hills	\$ 250,000	250,000 \$
Cooks Creek / Ruisseau Creeks	\$ 305,000	305 000 \$
East Interlake / Est de la région d'Entre-les-Lacs	\$ 335,000	335 000 \$
Intermountain	\$ 280,000	280 000 \$
Kelsey	\$ 139,000	139 000 \$
Lake of the Prairies / Lac des prairies	\$ 173,000	173 000 \$
La Salle Redboine	\$ 270,000	270 000 \$
Little Saskatchewan River / Rivière Little Saskatchewan	\$ 190,000	190 000 \$
Pembina Valley / Vallée de la Pembina	\$ 400,000	400 000 \$
Seine-Rat River / Rivières Seine et aux Rats	\$ 340,000	340 000 \$
Swan Lake Watershed / Bassin de drainage de Swan Lake	\$ 165,000	165 000 \$
Turtle Mountain	\$ 340,000	340 000 \$
Turtle River Watershed / Bassin de drainage de la rivière Turtle	\$ 430,000	430 000 \$
Upper Assiniboine River / Partie supérieure de la rivière Assiniboine	\$ 282,000	282 000 \$
West Interlake Watershed / Ouest du bassin de drainage d'Entre-les-Lacs	\$ 100,000	100 000 \$
West Souris River / Ouest de la rivière Souris	\$ 226,000	226 000 \$
Whitemud Watershed / Bassin de drainage de la rivière Whitemud	\$ 730,000	730 000 \$
TOTAL	\$ 5,215,000	5 215 000 \$

NOTE: Refer to the Audited Financial Statements in the appendices for details on local/external funding and total expenditures.

REMARQUE : Veuillez consulter les états financiers vérifiés en annexe pour des détails sur le financement local et externe et sur les dépenses totales.

Alonsa Conservation District

Introduction

The Alonsa Conservation District has been in operation since 1978 and is located along the western shores of Lake Manitoba, encompassing approximately 4,450 square kilometres. The district includes all or parts of the Rural Municipalities of Alonsa and Lawrence. The landscape is characterized by a series of gentle undulations of ridges and wetlands, and includes the major watersheds of Garrioch Creek, Sucker Creek, Hamlin Drain, and Reedy Creek, along with several others that drain into Lake Manitoba, Ebb and Flow Lake, and Lonely Lake.

The district offers programs relating to waterway and crossing maintenance, water management, soil conservation, fisheries, wildlife and forestry management. The district is also involved with supporting historic resource projects, public education, tourism, and recreation projects.

ALONSA CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS 2008-2009

SUB-DISTRICT

#107 – Crane River/Hamlin Drain
#110 – Garrioch Creek
#113 – Lonely Lake/Ebb and Flow
#157 – Weiden Drain
#160 – Kinosota Ridge
Chairperson / Provincial Appointee

CHAIRPERSON

Fred Taylor
Danny North
Lyle Finney
A. Rick Lodge
Allan Carriere
Edward Zdan

ADDRESS

Rorketon
Alonsa
Ste. Rose du Lac
Rorketon
Amaranth
Alonsa

Summary

The Alonsa Conservation District supported projects and programs relating to waterway and crossing maintenance, fish hatchery activities, forage, wildlife habitat enhancement, tree planting, recreation trail maintenance, aboriginal historic site maintenance, and park improvement. The district board is committed to educational and extension activities to fulfill its mandate of conserving, sustaining, and preserving the diversity of this unique area while strengthening the local economy.

Manitoba Water Stewardship and the Rural Municipalities of Alonsa and Lawrence are the main financial partners with additional funding from Manitoba Conservation Green Team Program, Manitoba Hydro, Manitoba Métis Federation, Lake Manitoba Fishermen's Association, and Manitoba Culture, Heritage, Tourism and Sport. The district also formed partnerships with watershed landowners for programs that focus on common interests for the environment and sustainable development.

The district completed a draft Surface Water Management plan as the first component of their integrated watershed management plan which will be initiated in the spring of 2009.

TOTAL EXPENDITURES 2008-2009

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
Watershed Planning	\$ 30,344.00
Assets	\$ 14,174.00
Administration	\$ 23,160.00
Public Relations & Education	\$ 66,904.00
Wildlife/Fisheries	\$ 29,249.00
Forestry	\$ 1,025.00
Soil Conservation	\$ 53,581.00
Water Management	\$ 93,359.00
Crossing	\$ 29,059.00
Drainage	\$ 65,768.00
Recreation	\$ 1,736.00
TOTAL	\$ 408,359.00

For further detail see Auditor's Report, Appendix A.

Watershed Planning

- Continued with research, development, and preparation of the draft surface water management plan

Administration

- Consisted of staff salaries and benefits expenses, board remuneration, and office expenses

Public Education

- Provided youth speaker sponsorships and graduation awards
- Hired students under the Green Team Student Employment Program
- Maintained self-guided and educational trails
- Recognized Bobby Campbell with a Conservation District Award
- Held public meetings for the draft Surface Water Management Plan

Wildlife / Fisheries and Habitat Programs

- Continued a partnership with the fish hatchery and assisted with Lake Manitoba walleye spawning activities
- Conducted habitat preservation projects

Soils Conservation and Forestry

- Assisted 31 landowners with the establishment of 2,360 hectares of permanent cover through the forage incentive program
- Completed riparian projects on two kilometres of riverbank
- Assisted 14 producers with land management planning Geographic Information System projects

Water Management

- Documented drain infrastructure projects using Geographic Information System technology
- Conducted the following maintenance activities in 2008-2009
 - Drain cleanout and vegetation control projects at seven sites
 - Beaver dams or debris removal at 68 sites
 - Equipment repair
- Conducted water quality testing
- Sealed five abandoned wells

Crossing Repair and Replacement

- Completed crossing repairs at 13 sites
- Utilized Geographic Information System technology to track crossings repairs and management history

Heritage Resources / Tourism

- Continued to support the efforts of the Alex Robertson Museum and United Church
- Covered the costs of the heritage resources and tourism projects with funds raised locally and through external grants

Recreation

- Maintained 13 existing recreations projects, including: nature trails, an aboriginal petroform site, interpretive centers, and parks

External Funding

Program/Partner

	Funding
Manitoba Green Team Program	\$ 4,468.32
Birdwatchers Fund	\$ 1,914.13
Cattle Producers	\$ 26,987.05
Bluff Creek Caretaker Donations	\$ 700.00
Manitoba Hydro	\$ 1,071.34
Crossing Infrastructure Residents Cost-Share	\$ 5,135.00
Pelican Lake Wildlife Association Donation	\$ 1,000.00

TOTAL \$ 41,275.84

Assiniboine Hills Conservation District

Introduction

Assiniboine Hills Conservation District was formed April 1, 2008 as a merger between the Mid Assiniboine River and Tiger Hills Conservation Districts. The district includes the Rural Municipalities of Argyle, Cornwallis, Glenwood, Oakland, Riverside, South Cypress, Strathcona, Whitewater, the town of Souris, and the villages of Glenboro and Wawanesa. The district covers 6,349 square kilometres within the Central Assiniboine and Lower Souris Sub-Watershed in southwest Manitoba. The topography is varied from undulating hills to low lying marshlands, with soils ranging from Stockton sands to Assiniboine clays.

ASSINIOBINE HILLS CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS 2008-2009

SUB-DISTRICT

#56 – Pelican / Rock
#68 – Elgin Creek
#69 – Lower Souris
#70 – Oak Creek
#98 – Little Souris
#99 – Epinette/Willow
Board Chairperson

CHAIRPERSON

Rob Stephenson
Dale Dornian
Jack Boake
Hugh Stephenson
Gordon Beddome
Heather Dalglish
Jack Bolack

ADDRESS

Killarney
Souris
Nesbitt
Baldur
Douglas
Glenboro
Glenora

Summary

Land and water conservation initiatives were priority programming areas for the district. The district hosted successful public education and extension initiatives and focused on sustainable livestock management. Each sub-district developed programs and projects directed at specific issues within their boundaries. The board prioritized program funding and application approvals targeting the main concerns in the district.

TOTAL EXPENDITURES 2008-2009

Activity

Administration
Public Education
Wildlife-Fisheries
Soil Management
Watershed Management
Watershed Planning

Expenditure

\$	49,079.00
\$	65,992.00
\$	4,503.00
\$	95,397.00
\$	86,406.00
\$	36,496.00

TOTAL \$ 337,873.00

For further detail see Auditor's Report, Appendix B.

Administration

- Consisted of office operation, audit and legal fees, office supplies, bank charges, Manitoba Conservation District Association dues, board remuneration, staff training and education, and 10 per cent administrator wages

Public Education

- Sponsored Oak Hammock Marsh Interpretive Centre environmental education presentations at local schools
- Awarded Gordon Cote with the annual Conservation Family Award
- Partnered with Turtle Mountain and West Souris River Conservation Districts to deliver the Southwest Manitoba Water Festival
- Partnered with the Greener Pasture Grazing Club to deliver the Winter Livestock Management Workshop
- Coordinated a tree workshop

Wildlife / Fisheries

- Installed three beaver levellers and coordinated an instructional workshop for municipal authorities
- Maintained 20 artificial nest boxes for the Burrowing Owl Nest Box Project
- Hosted the Rock Lake ice fishing derby

Soil Conservation

- 31 producers participated in the Molehill leveller program
- Provided forage seed to cover 260 hectares
- Assisted with the planting of 1190 hectares of fall sown crops
- Supported 50 soil test programs
- Distributed saline tolerant forage seed in partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada
- Installed three grassed waterways
- Completed one erosion control project
- Consulted on three erosion control projects
- Continued to manage and add to the Belmont Community Forest
- Assisted with five Rotational Grazing Projects
- Completed five shelterbelts, for a total of three miles in length

Water Management

- Installed two low level crossings
- Partnered with three municipalities on erosion control projects
- Sealed 39 abandoned wells
- Shock chlorinated 14 wells
- Inventoried and sampled 60 wells
- Installed 16 off-site watering systems
- Enabled five producers to use a trial watering system
- Assisted with 10 fall/winter grazing projects

External Funding

Program/Partner

Landowner contributions
Ducks Unlimited Canada
Energy, Science & Technology
Board Revenue and Interest

Funding

\$	5,257.00
\$	270.00
\$	780.00
\$	904.00

TOTAL \$ 7,211.00

Cooks Creek Conservation District

Introduction

The Cooks Creek Conservation District was established in 1979 and is located to the east of Winnipeg. The district includes most of the Cooks Creek watershed, which discharges into the Red River and parts of the Carrs Creek and Lower Seine River watersheds, both of which flow into the Red River Floodway. Topography, soils, and vegetation of the watershed are distinguished by an eastern upland area and a central lowland area.

The district covers an area of 862 square kilometres and includes all or parts of the Rural Municipalities of Springfield, Taché, Ste. Anne, Brokenhead, and Reynolds. The district's proximity to Winnipeg has led to an influx of commuter residents in the rural areas as well as in the communities of Anola, Cooks Creek, Dugald, Oakbank, Ste. Genevieve, and Richer.

COOKS CREEK CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS 2008-2009

SUB-DISTRICT

#9 – Lower Seine River
#11N – Lower Cooks Creek
#11S – Upper Cooks Creek
#12 – Carrs Creek
Board Chairperson

CHAIRPERSON

Bill Ammeter
Garry Brown
Marc Ross
Bob Bodnaruk
Neil Van Ryssel

ADDRESS

Dufresne
Dugald
Richer
Springfield
Oakbank

Summary

Cooks Creek Conservation District programming includes drain and crossings reconstruction and maintenance, well sealing, drainage license approvals, water retention, wildlife habitat enhancement, sub-division application review, and public education initiatives. In addition to conservation district program grant funding from Manitoba Water Stewardship, the district continues to secure additional funding through provincial and federal programs and through partnerships with local landowners and municipalities.

TOTAL EXPENDITURES 2008-2009

Activity

Administration
Assets
Public Education
Wildlife / Fisheries
Forestry
Soils
Watershed Planning
Water Management
Crossing Infrastructure
Drain Infrastructure

Expenditure

\$	92,776.00
\$	163,287.00
\$	65,512.00
\$	30,451.00
\$	827.00
\$	1,496.00
\$	4,881.00
\$	15,299.00
\$	24,225.00
\$	525,359.00

TOTAL \$ 924,003.00

For further detail see Auditor's Report, Appendix C.

Administration

- Consisted of office cleaning, office supplies, utilities, and some salaries and benefits

Assets

- Purchased a computer, printer, plotter, filing cabinets, and ESRI ArcGIS computer software

Public Education

- Summer staff identified wildlife and plants at the district's Wildlife Site
- Submitted an article to the Manitoba Conservation District Association magazine
- District representatives attended 50 meetings, one tour, and eight workshops including the annual Manitoba Conservation District Association Conference in Brandon
- Sponsored the *Agriculture in the Classroom* organization

Wildlife / Fisheries

- Maintained the district office and 18.6 hectare wildlife complex near Birds Hill Park

Forestry

- Summer staff and the Oakbank Scouts planted approximately 500 trees at the Wildlife Site
- Coordinated a project with Manitoba Lotteries, Manitoba Forestry, and the Municipality of Springfield, where 49,540 spruce trees were planted at a rehabilitated gravel pit site north east of the district office

Soils

- Evaluated one bank stabilization site
- Investigated one riparian management project site
- Provided comments on 18 sub-division applications in the Municipalities of Springfield and Taché

Watershed Planning

- Planned the Satans Creek Study and Legacy Document Projects during the summer of 2009

Water Management

- Sealed nine abandoned wells (over 240 wells have been sealed since 1994)
- Participated as a stakeholder on the Southeast Regional Groundwater Management Planning committee
- Continued to inspect and arrange stakeholder meetings for drainage license applications
- Held discussions with Manitoba Water Stewardship regarding improvements to the drainage licensing process
- Hired two summer students under the Hometown Green Team Program

Crossing Infrastructure

- Installed two new culvert crossings
- Repaired one bridge and four culvert crossings
- Replaced 12 culvert crossings
- Repaired 20 floodgates and culvert ends at through-road or dyke installations
- Continued a partnership project with the Municipality of Springfield to compile digital records on the location and condition of all crossing infrastructure

Drain Infrastructure

- Reconstructed 4.82 kilometres of drainage waterways
- Completed a 2005 Drain Restoration in partnership with the Municipality of Springfield and EMO
- Completed silt and earth spot cleanouts along 30 kilometres of drains
- Sprayed and mowed for cattails and brush on approximately 85 kilometres of drain
- Removed five beaver dams from district drains
- Coordinated works on Forest Road 13 & 13A with the Rural Municipalities of Ste. Anne, Reynolds, Taché, and the Seine-Rat River Conservation District
- Completed the Oakbank Canadian Pacific Railway drain land purchases and compensation settlements
- Completed the Hillside Road drain expropriation and all compensation settlements
- Commenced work on the Trans-Canada Prairie Grove reconstruction and constructed the Centerline Drain Gradient Control Structure with funding from the Capital Infrastructure Funding program

External Funding

Program/Partner

	Funding
Hometown Green Team	\$ 8,986.40
Infrastructure & Transportation	\$ 232,457.88
Disaster Assistance	\$ 150,000.00
Municipal Grants	\$ 97,405.57
Landowner Contributions	\$ 11,144.87
Sub-Division Developer	\$ 5,000.00
Maintenance Revenue	\$ 3,429.84
Salmon Lake	\$ 793.90
Investment Income	\$ 10,796.39

TOTAL \$ 520,014.85

East Interlake Conservation District

Introduction

The East Interlake Conservation District was established in 2005 and includes all or parts of: the Rural Municipalities of Armstrong, Bifrost, Fisher, Gimli, Rockwood, Rosser, St. Andrews, West St. Paul, and Woodlands; the City of Selkirk; the Towns of Arborg, Teulon, Stonewall, and Winnipeg Beach; and the Villages of Dunnottar and Riverton. The district covers 7,113 square kilometres of land with approximately 55,000 residents. The area is characterized by a diversified agricultural community; tourism associated with inland, shoreline and water activities; industry; aggregate and peat mining; and residential developments along Lake Winnipeg and north of the Winnipeg capital region. Agricultural activities include livestock (beef, dairy, poultry and hogs), forage production, annual crop production, and specialty operations.

The district is comprised of, and governed by, four major watersheds and offers programming in five programming areas including water quality, surface water management, watershed planning, soil and riparian health, and conservation education.

EAST INTERLAKE CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEMBERS 2008-2009

SUB-DISTRICT

Board Chairperson
Fisher / Washow Bay
Grassmere / Parks Creek
Icelandic River / Willow Creek
Netley / Wavely Creek
Provincial Appointee

CHAIRPERSON

Harold Foster
Robert Green
Gordon Grenkow
Bill Barlow
Dennis Persoage
Melvin Podiama

ADDRESS

Bifrost
Fisher
Rosser
Bifrost
Rockwood
Fisher

Summary

The district continued its mandate to promote watershed health by offering programs with a focus on water quality and surface water management, including a private well inventory, abandoned well sealing, culvert inventory, riparian programming, and education.

In addition to regular programming, several long term projects have been completed or are advancing, including the completion of a well water inventory summary report of the Netley-Grassmere watershed (Watershed 050J). The district is continuing the watershed planning process for the Icelandic River and Washow Bay watershed and has reached a Public Discussion Draft stage, which is near completion. A second watershed plan process in the Netley-Grassmere watershed was initiated and four public open houses were held along with two watershed team meetings (i.e. Non-public watershed stakeholders). The district completed habitat assessments in the Willow Creek and Netley-Grassmere watersheds and initiated its final habitat assessment in the Fisher River watershed.

The district implemented new programs, including the creation of an advanced culvert and drain inventory system, the first Interlake Water Days event, and an urban-focussed program with storm water monitoring and the sale of 100 compost bins. The district also participated in research investigating nutrient mitigation in an annual cropping system.

The district expanded to include the City of Selkirk and the Rural Municipalities of West St. Paul and Woodlands.

TOTAL EXPENDITURES 2008-2009

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
Watershed Planning	\$ 95,794.33
Administration	\$ 50,864.23
Assets	\$ 11,425.41
Public Education	\$ 67,588.32
Wildlife & Fisheries	\$ 66,808.86
Soil	\$ 14,142.42
Water Management	\$ 156,792.32
TOTAL	\$ 463,415.89

For further detail see Auditor's Report, Appendix D.

Watershed Planning

- Developed an integrated watershed management plan for the Icelandic-Washow Bay watershed, which includes recommendations, actions, and goals towards addressing issues raised in a series of public consultations over the past three years
- Initiated an integrated watershed management plan for the Netley-Grassmere watershed, which included four public meetings to discuss and prioritize water and land management issues, the development of a draft watershed characterization report, and the development of a draft action plan
- Developed and collected culvert and drain attributes in the Grassmere and Parks watersheds, which will be used as part of a broader surface water management plan

Administration

- Consisted of office rent, supplies, phone, insurance, accounting, and portions of the administrator salary

Assets

- Purchased two new computers, two new printers, one gas powered grass trimmer, a fridge, and a solar powered watering system

Public Education

- Hosted the first annual Water Day events in Peguis and Gimli, Manitoba
 - Events focussed on the exchange of water and cultural information between Interlake students
- Worked with watershed residents to learn more about important issues within the district
- Featured in 10 print articles, including one distributed throughout much of Western Manitoba
- Placed three advertisements in local papers
- Maintained and updated the district web page (www.cied.ca), which includes district reports and water quality data
- Designed and distributed 15,000 district pamphlets to residents within the Netley-Grassmere watershed
- Made presentations at:
 - Stonewall Ag Exhibition Days